

## Our heritage: Bridging the past to the future

By Col. Timothy Collins  
8th Operations Group commander

All of us understand our 11-word mission at the Wolf Pack, – Defend the base, Accept follow-on forces, Take the fight north – is woven together for the ultimate purpose of putting steel and fire on targets. This is a team sport. Therefore, it's important to pay attention to team performance. That performance hinges upon the most important mission component we have – people. That's why we are constantly seeking to improve the human dimension of our business – recruiting, training and retaining high-quality, motivated people, like each one of you. In my view, our history, legacy and heritage play an essential role in these human values.

As such, the 8th Operations Group will celebrate its 70th birthday April 1. Think about that: born in 1931. By the early 1930s there were only 13 combat groups in our fledgling Air Force; the 8th OG was among the first. We are among the elder statesman of our business. We are the original Air Force. If you go back to the cities, towns and villages of this great nation, these are the units most people would associate themselves with. This is true because by simply being on the books for 70 years, more Air Force men and women have cycled through these 13 great outfits.

What's more, for 70 years we've been in the business of providing

America's "airpower on demand." In the skies over America and throughout the Pacific, we have always been there to answer the president's 911– telephone call. In good times and bad, the 8th OG has stood ever ready to defend and defeat any foes. Not once have we failed.

It's with great pride throughout 2001 that we celebrate 70 years of sustained public service. Our main event will be a "birthday bash" at the Loring Club March 31. We will pause to reflect on victorious times, and to honor those who have died while serving in our outfit. We hope you will consider joining us for this combat dining-out.

An Air Force without a past will not have a future. This is not my idea, but rather Gen. Carl Spaatz's – the first Air Force chief of staff – who put that simple yet powerful idea forward. He remembered the lean years of the 1930s how the future great captains of World War II prepared by studying and debating the lessons of World War I. Spaatz saw a parallel developing in the 1950s, so he set up the Air Force Historical Foundation. That first meeting in 1953 was a who's who of airpower: Generals Nathan Twining, Hoyt Vandenberg, Ira Eaker, William McKee and others. Spaatz gave them one task: preserve and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Air Force, and of the people who've devoted their lives to its service. So shall we!

## Countdown to ORI 2001 55 Days

### ATSO Tip of the Week: Law of Armed Conflict

*The Kunsan judge advocate is the point of contact on armed conflict laws and rules of engagement. If there is no JA representative available, your commander will assist in LOAC matters. LOAC is intended to keep the violence of war focused on defeating enemy forces, preventing needless destruction and lessening civilian casualties. All U.S. military personnel must obey the LOAC and have a duty to report LOAC violations. LOAC violations are punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. For more information call the 8th Fighter Wing legal office at 782-4283.*

## Commander's Hotline



Col. Philip Breedlove,  
8th Fighter Wing commander

*The commander's hotline is your direct line of communication between me and the Wolf Pack. It's one of several means of helping to resolve concerns and to get my response to comments and questions. As a general rule, I ask you to contact the agency involved first, but if you are not satisfied, call the hotline at 782-5284, e-mail the 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office or e-mail me directly.*

### Who to call

Base exchange.....	782-4520
Chapel.....	782-4300
Civil engineer squadron customer service.....	782-5318
Commissary manager.....	782-4144
Computer help desk.....	782-2666
Fitness center.....	782-4026
Housing office.....	782-4088
Inspector General.....	782-4850
IDEA office.....	782-4020
Law enforcement desk.....	782-4944
Legal assistance.....	782-4283
Military equal opportunity.....	782-4055
Military pay.....	782-5574
Military personnel flight customer service.....	782-5276
Medical patient advocate.....	782-4014

**Question:** My DEROS (date of estimated rotation from overseas station) date is March 1 and I'm concerned about the ORI (Operational Readiness Inspection) the same month delaying PCS (permanent change of station) dates. I heard people were going to be delayed until the end of March. I'm a little upset about this, especially since I was scheduled to leave in the beginning of the month. I was wondering if you would be coming up with a policy addressing this issue? I'd appreciate your help in this matter.

**Answer:** Thanks for your question – one that affects many Kunsan members. The Wolf Pack's readiness for the ORI heavily depends on personnel availability during the inspection, and during exercises leading up to it. The ORI is our grade card from Pacific Air Forces on how well we perform our wartime mission. Therefore, I disseminated a letter Dec. 8 with my official leave policy in preparation to and during the ORI.

For the last exercise, Feb. 10-16, commanders were directed to ensure mission-essential personnel are present for duty to maximize our ability to properly prepare for the ORI. While TDYs are mission-related, I've directed commanders not to schedule any during the ORI, and only critical TDYs during the January and February exercises. Preparation is key to success during the ORI; teammembers who are missing during the last two preparation exercises cannot contribute to success during the inspection.

Additionally, personnel whose mid-tour eligibility is around the March time-frame should plan to take their leave well before or after the ORI. Personnel scheduled to PCS in March must coordinate their port call dates with their supervisors. Although we will in-process Kunsan newcomers during the ORI, no one will outprocess from March 14-19. All personnel will PCS either before or the inspection. While I will not make "blanket" extensions, commanders may keep mission-critical personnel until the end of their DEROS month in order to be prepared for the ORI.

Your unit, the 8th Communications Squadron, has minimum manning during exercises due to the numbers of people tasked for the READY program, and other details. With two exceptions due to extreme hardships that a DEROS change would cause, all 8th CS members DEROS dates are delayed until after the ORI. Your commander has determined that you are mission essential to the wing's ORI success.

Although I understand this might be an inconvenience to your original plans, we need each and every Wolf Pack warrior to help show the PACAF inspectors that Kunsan excels at our wartime capabilities.



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The preferred medium for submission is e-mail to [WolfPackWarrior@kunsan.af.mil](mailto:WolfPackWarrior@kunsan.af.mil).

Faxes and typewritten submissions are also accepted.

The voice mail to 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs is 782-4705.

The fax number is 782-7568.